

paid.
PAID
R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint.

Philadelphia.

Transd
W. G. Stearns, Esq.
Boston
Aug. 23/38.
Recd 27th.

DESCRIPTION
OF AN
EARLY 1/2 DIME

Boston, August 23. 1838.

Dear Sir;

Your very obliging letter of the 15th. inst., in answer to my inquiries which were communicated to you through the kindness of Mr. Sparks, - was received on Saturday last. I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the interest which you manifest in the success of my project, and for the trouble you have taken in my behalf. It has given me great pleasure to learn, from an authentic source, several interesting facts in relation to the history of the coinage of the United States, about which I could not satisfy myself, even after pretty extensive inquiry.

You do not inform me when, or in what manner, you wish me to receive and pay for the coins which Mr. DuBois is laying aside for me. In this matter I wish to consult you and his convenience. I will take them in parcels, as they are collected, or wait until the collection is as nearly complete as may be, - as you please. I have a friend who expects, shortly, to go to Phil^a, and I shall ask him to call at the mint, and make inquiry into this matter. But if you should wish the coins already collected to be taken away immediately, be good enough to advise me on the subject, and I will

remit funds to you, in any form you may
direct.

Do you know what is the device on the
half dime of 1792? If so, - be good enough
to tell me, in general terms, - whenever you
are inclined to write me again. The day
before I received your letter, I picked up a
small silver coin, much worn - about the size
of the half dime, - which I had thought, since
I heard from you, - might possibly be one of
the half dimes of '92. This, however, is mere
conjecture. One side is now almost smooth. On
the other are seven arrows, tied together in the
middle, - crossing each other - both extremities
being extended, so as to resemble, somewhat,
two fans, joined together at the base. The only
legible figure of the date is a 7; - but whether
this is the second or third figure of the date, I
cannot tell. I have never seen the device
on any foreign coin, - tho' I have examined,
at various times, a great number.

Very truly,

Yr. obliged Servt.

W. G. Stearns.

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Mint of the U. S. -

The coin is probably a dime of 1795.

RG104 Entry 1 Box 19 Aug 1838

August 23, 1838

R. M. Patterson, Esq.
Director of the Mint of the United States

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Do you know what is the device on the half dimes of 1792? If so, be good enough to tell me, in general terms, whenever you are inclined to write me again. The day before I received your letter, I picked up a small silver coins, much worn, about the size of a half dime, which I have thought, since I heard from you, might possible be one of the half dimes of '92. This, however, is mere conjecture. One side is worn almost smooth. On the other are seven arrows, tied together in the middle, crossing each other – both extremities being extended, so as to resemble, somewhat, two fans, joined together at the base. The only legible figure of the date is a “7,” but whether this is the second or third figure of the date, I cannot tell. I have never seen the device on any foreign coin, tho’ I have examined, at times, a great number.

W. G. Stearns
Boston, Mass